

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUCHAR 01499 131047Z

12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8344

CONFIDENTIAL BUCHAREST 1499

EXDIS

FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM SECRETARY DENT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP DENT, FO, RO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU

REF: A. BUCHAREST 1494; B. BUCHAREST 1495 (EXDIS)

1. MAIN THEME OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S REMARKS
DURING A PLEASANT HOUR-LONG TALK WITH HIM APRIL 12
WAS ROMANIA'S NEED FOR MFN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I
CONVEYED TO HIM YOUR ASSURANCES THAT YOU WOULD
CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD THIS GOAL AND ALSO MY
CONVICTION THAT WE WOULD SUCCEED BECAUSE WE WERE
PURSUING A POLICY THAT WAS RIGHT. I ALSO DES-
CRIBED SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE IN THE
CONGRESS. HE SAID HE WAS AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND
WHY SOME CONGRESSMEN INSISTED ON PUTTING OBSTACLES
IN THE WAY OF GREATER CONTACTS. HE SEES MFN NOT
JUST AS A NECESSARY WAY OF PROMOTING TRADE BUT
BASICALLY AS A POLITICAL MEASURE VIS-A-VIS THE
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CHINA, WHICH
DEMONSTRATES US INTEREST IN REMOVING BARRIERS BE-
TWEEN COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

2. I REFERRED TO THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN IN THE
US ON THE EMIGRATION QUESTION AND ALSO INDIRECTLY
TO THE TRENDS IN SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICIES. I
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUCHAR 01499 131047Z

ALSO EXPRESSED MY CONCERN THAT THE OPPONENTS OF THE

TRADE BILL MIGHT SUCCEED ONLY IN CUTTING DOWN ON
EMIGRATION, NOT INCREASING IT. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU
UNDERSTOOD MY POINT. SO FAR AS ROMANIA IS CONCERNED
HE SAID THAT THE EMIGRATION QUESTION WAS NOT A
MAJOR PROBLEM AND THAT IN FACT REQUESTS FOR
EMIGRATION HAD BEEN DECLINING. HE MAINTAINED HOW-
EVER THAT HE APPRECIATED THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT AND
HAD BEEN AND STILL WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY.
HE CLAIMED THAT BECAUSE OF ROMANIA'S RELATIVELY
HIGH BIRTH RATE THERE WAS NO NEED TO KEEP ANYONE
HERE BY FORCE WHO REALLY WANTED TO LEAVE. HE THEN
STRESSED THE POINT, WHICH HE SAID SOME MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS OBVIOUSLY FAILED TO GRASP, THAT THE BETTER
RELATIONS ARE THE EASIER ANY PROBLEM SUCH AS
EMIGRATION CAN BE SOLVED; THE WORSE THEY ARE THE
MORE DIFFICULT SOLUTIONS BECOME. ON THE EMIGRATION
SUBJECT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU MENTIONED INFORMATION
HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM A ZIONIST LEADER
THAT ISRAEL REFUSES EMIGRATION RIGHTS OF MILITARY
AGE YOUTH AND FACETIOUSLY ASKED IF WE WOULD DENY
THEM MFN AS WELL.

3. IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE I HAVE REPORTED PRESIDENT
CEAUSESCU'S CONCERN OVER THE SEVERE DROUGHT WHICH
IS AFFLICTING ROMANIA AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST
FOR GRAIN PURCHASES AND CCC CREDITS.

4. HE ALSO TALKED OF HIS HOPES FOR EXPANDING US-
ROMANIAN TRADE UP TO AN ANNUAL TOTAL OF A BILLION
DOLLARS BY 1980 AND OF ROMANIAN EFFORTS TO
FINALIZE A NUMBER OF PROJECTS INVOLVING US FIRMS.
HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR OUR
GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE US BUSINESS TO
TRADE WITH ROMANIA.

5. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE ORIGINAL
OF YOUR LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS BECOMING
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA TO HAND HIM THAT
LETTER. HE APPRECIATED THE GESTURE AND SPOKE OF
THE PLEASANT MEMORIES HE HAS OF HIS VISIT TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUCHAR 01499 131047Z

WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER. AT THE END OF OUR CON-
VERSATION HE ASKED ME TO PASS ON TO YOU HIS VERY
BEST WISHES. HE REITERATED HIS INVITATION TO YOU AND
EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THIS YEAR WOULD SEE A
RETURN VISIT BY YOU TO ROMANIA.
BARNES

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